REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified Application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-12 are in the case. No amendments have been made.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Nakayama et al. in view of Reboh et al., this rejection is respectfully traversed. Both independent claims, Claim 1 and Claim 7, recite a handheld computing device and a graphing calculator, respectively, including expert programming which provides a set of transformations for a mathematical object that the user can choose from and apply to the mathematical object to produce the next step in a solution to a mathematical symbolic calculation problem. This novel feature provided in a handheld computing device helps a user to more rapidly learn symbolic calculation problem solution and the mathematical theory involved in such solution. It has been admitted that Nakayama et al. doesn't explicitly teach expert programming. Applicants agree with this admission. However, Applicants disagree with the allegation that it would have been obvious to modify Nakayama et al. as taught by Reboh et al. to create the claimed invention.

The patent to Reboh et al. apparently relates to a data-driven functional expert system. They have as an object the provision of an expert system shell that has the focus and efficiency of goal-driven control while providing the freedom and responsiveness of data-driven control. In conjunction with this, a further object is to allow knowledge to be represented in the form of functional relations between variables. However, the patent to Reboh et al. is completely silent on any transformations for a mathematical object that a user can choose from and apply to the mathematical object to produce the next step in a solution to a problem. In fact, Reboh et al. teach nothing of transformations at all. Therefore, any teaching of expert systems in Reboh et al. is unrelated to providing transformations for a mathematical object.

Thus, the purposes of the claimed invention and that of the patent to Reboh et al. are fundamentally different, and therefore provide no suggestion or motivation to combine the documents to create the claimed invention. Therefore, Reboh et al. provide neither teaching nor suggestion for providing expert programming which provides a set of transformations for a mathematical object that the user can choose from and apply to the mathematical object to produce the next step in a solution to a mathematical symbolic calculation problem, as required by Claim 1 and by Claim 7. The other art of record is even less relevant.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that for the reasons set forth above Claims 1 and 7 are allowable over Nakayama et al., Reboh et al. and, indeed, all of the art of record whether considered alone or in any combination. All of the other claims under this rejection depend, either directly or indirectly, from either Claim 1 or Claim 7 and so are allowable as well for the same reasons, as well as for the additional limitations found therein.

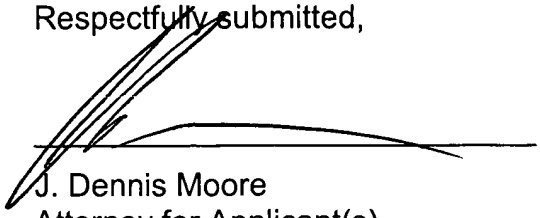
It is respectfully submitted that the claims recite the patentably distinguishing features of the invention and that, taken together with the above remarks, the present application is now in proper form for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, and allowance of the claims are requested at an early date.

While it is believed that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees to the Deposit Account No. 20-0668

of Texas Instruments Incorporated.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Dennis Moore
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 28,885

Texas Instruments Incorporated
P.O. Box 655474, MS 3999
Dallas, TX 75265
Phone: (972) 917-5646
Fax: (972) 917-4418